



NEVADA CHILDREN'S COMMISSION  
CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** Friday, March 27, 2020

**TIME:** 3:00 p.m.

**TELECONFERENCE LINE:** 1-312-584-2401

**EXTENSION:** 488426

1. **Call to Order** – Megan Miller, Tim Burch, Judge Cynthia Lu, Amber Howell  
The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by Megan Miller.

2. **Welcome and Introductions (Roll Call)** – DCFS Staff  
**Members Present:** Megan Miller, Judge Cynthia Lu, Amber Howell

**Members Absent:** Tim Burch

**DCFS Staff:** Elvira Saldana

**Public:** Cynthia Carstairs

3. **Public Comment and Discussion:**

There was no public comment.

4. **For Possible Action:** Minute Meetings from February 28, 2020  
Megan Miller asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. No recommendations were made.

**Action:** A motion was made by Judge Cynthia Lu to approve the minutes, seconded by Megan Miller and carried to approve the minutes of February 28, 2020.

5. **For Possible Action:** Committee Goals- Megan Miller, Tim Burch, Judge Cynthia Lu, Amber Howell  
Megan Miller stated a summary of the last meeting where the committee was in terms of training and technology was provided to Justice Saitta. Megan Miller stated regarding the workplan on prioritizing gaps in both training and data sharing, in the last discussion, in the North there was not any real organized best practices or evidence-based training. Megan Miller asked if there were any other gaps currently.

Judge Cynthia Lu stated she could not think of any. Judge Cynthia Lu asked Amber Howell if she had any thoughts on it.

Amber Howell reiterated she could not think of any either.

Megan Miller stated in the South the Court Improvement Project had done an 8-hour electronic training, all attorneys practicing there had to take. The training was basic child welfare law and practices. Megan Miller asked if it would be helpful for the North or if there is a need for it.

Judge Cynthia Lu stated they have new attorneys however it does not sound they are unclear on the law or have questions or issues. Judge Cynthia Lu offered to ask stakeholders at their next meeting if the attorneys would be interested in any type of refresher training.

Megan Miller stated in terms of training, she does not see any glaring gaps. In the last meeting Judge Cynthia Lu had mentioned there was an effort to try to get the DCFS system to communicate with the court system. Megan Miller asked if there were any other barriers relating to data sharing.

Amber Howell stated they currently have their INSPIRES and Prime initiative.

Judge Cynthia Lu commented she needs to follow up with the Court Improvement Program about the data sharing with UNITY.

Megan Miller stated the fourth action for April-June is to develop a presentation. Megan Miller suggested to hold off on that item until they have stakeholders present.

Amber Howell stated she agreed to wait on the presentation.

Megan Miller stated the next step would be to have some stakeholders present.

Judge Cynthia Lu stated she reached out to Carrie Pruitt, their Education Liaison, however, has not heard back from her. Judge Cynthia Lu also stated she spoke with Liz Flores from Juvenile Delinquency and she indicated she would nominate an individual. At this time Judge Cynthia Lu has not heard back from Liz Flores.

Amber Howell stated she has a couple of foster parents whom are very interested.

Megan Miller suggested inviting Stephanie Cook and Amy Honodel as stakeholders to the next meeting.

Judge Cynthia Lu commented she had no objection to inviting them. Judge Cynthia Lu expressed concern about getting too large.

Megan Miller asked if they should only invite one attorney.

Judge Cynthia Lu stated it would work.

Megan Miller stated she has a potential CASA individual however she does not have a specific name. Tim Burch had mentioned reaching out to someone in education in the last meeting. Megan Miller stated she will follow up with Tim prior to the next meeting. Megan Miller informed she will prepare a questionnaire to help identify and survey the need for judicial reforms identified in the first step to review at the next meeting. Megan Miller asked committee members if they were ok with the questionnaire.

Judge Cynthia Lu and Amber Howell stated they were ok with it.

Megan Miller asked Elvira Saldana to add the item to the next meeting agenda.

Elvira Saldana acknowledged the agenda item.

Megan Miller stated they will continue to work on identifying specific individuals.

Amber Howell provided an update on the Prime implementation. It was scheduled to be launched on March 30<sup>th</sup>. There has been a delay and the launch date will now be mid-May.

**6. For Possible Action:** Discuss and Decide Upon Next Steps- Megan Miller, Tim Burch, Judge Cynthia Lu, Amber Howell

- Assign Tasks to Committee Members (if needed)
- Specify Agenda Items for the Next Meeting
- Confirm Next Meeting Date/Time

The next meeting date for the Child Welfare Committee will be Friday, May 1, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

**7. Public Comment and Discussion:**

There was no public comment.

**8. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

**CHAIRPERSON MAY CALL FOR A BREAK AT THEIR DISCRETION**

We are pleased to provide special accommodation assistance to persons with disabilities who wish to attend. Notify Elvira Saldana in writing at the Division of Child and Family Services, 4126 Technology Way, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Carson City, NV 89706, or by calling (775) 684-4440 no later than three (3) business days prior to the meeting date. Supporting materials may be obtained at the above address or by contacting Elvira Saldana at (775) 684-4440.

**This notice and Agenda has been sent to be posted at the following locations, in accordance with NRS Chapter 241:**

**State of Nevada- Division and Child Family Services**

Website- <http://dcfs.nv.gov/Programs/CWS/ChildrensCommission/2020MeetingsAndAgendas/>

**State of Nevada- Nevada Public Notices**

Website- <https://notice.nv.gov/>

1. Division of Child and Family Services, 4126 Technology Way, 3rd Floor, Carson City, NV 89706
2. Elko Juvenile Court, 665 W. Silver Street, Elko, NV 89801
3. Clark County District Attorney, 601 North Pecos Road, Las Vegas, NV 89101